



# Jocassee Journal

Information and News about the Jocassee Gorges

Summer/Fall, 2000

Volume 1, Number 2

## Developer donates \$100,000 to Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund

Upstate South Carolina developer Jim Anthony - whose development Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards is adjacent to the Jocassee Gorges - recently donated \$100,000 to the Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund.

"The job that the conservation community has done at Jocassee Gorges has really inspired me," said Anthony, president of Cliffs Communities. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be here at the right time and to be able to help like this. We're delighted to play a small part in maintaining the Jocassee Gorges tract."

John Frampton, assistant director for development and national affairs with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, said Anthony's donation will "jump-start the Trust Fund. This will be a living gift, because we will eventually be able to do many good

things at Jocassee with the interest from the Trust Fund.

"We are excited about Cliffs Communities becoming a partner with the DNR on the Jocassee project," Frampton said. "Although there is a substantial amount of acreage protected in the Jocassee Gorges, some development around it is going to occur. The citizens in this state are fortunate to have a developer like Jim Anthony whose conservation ethic is reflected in his properties. In the Cliffs Communities' developments, a lot of the green space and key wildlife portions are preserved and enhanced. Jim Anthony has long been known as a conservationist, and this generous donation further illustrates his commitment to conservation and protection of these unique mountain habitats."

Approved in 1997 by the S.C. Natural Resources Board, the Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund will provide money to manage the area and perhaps add to it if additional properties become available.

Those wishing to contribute to the fund may make a check to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and send it to:

Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund, DNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202. In the "For" section of the check in the bottom left corner, write "Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund."



*A \$100,000 donation by Cliffs Communities to the Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund will mean a living legacy for the upstate natural area. At the recent donation presentation were (from left) Sam Stokes Sr., DNR regional wildlife biologist; John Frampton, DNR assistant director for development and national affairs; Jim Anthony, Cliffs Communities president; Dr. Joab Lesesne, S.C. Natural Resources Board chairman; and Billy McTeer, DNR deputy director for wildlife and freshwater fisheries.*

## Biological Survey for South Carolina proposed

Clemson University's Biodiversity Initiative and the Jocassee Gorges Professional Management and Research Working Group are developing a working concept for a South Carolina Biological Survey.

The two groups met April 26-27 at Clemson University, hearing two presentations: the first an overview of the Illinois Natural History Survey, and the second one reporting on a detailed regional survey known as the Great Smoky Mountains All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory.

The proposed South Carolina Biological Survey would be headquartered at Clemson and incorporated into DNR programs and budgets. It would be built around a core staff of scientists with faculty status, coordinating a program of surveys centered initially on the Blue Ridge Escarpment, with funding from diverse sources. Such a survey would have a strong built-in public involvement, contributing specimens to Clemson collections and data to a DNR database system.

Among the expected benefits of a South Carolina Biological Survey would be: a store of data to guide management decisions; semi-independent source of scientific information for resource decision making; baseline of biological data against which to measure changes; source of educational materials; increased support for graduate and professional education in field biology, taxonomy and ecology; and a better understanding of threats to human health and economic well-being.

## Legendary Jocassee-area conservation officer dies

The Jocassee Gorges lost one of its best friends when longtime DNR conservation officer Franklin L. Gravely of Sunset died July 30th.



*Franklin L. Gravely*

Gravely, who retired as a conservation officer with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources in 1988 after 42 years service, was a legend in the South Carolina mountains. The stories of his search and rescue efforts and of his law enforcement prowess in the vast mountain expanses of upper Greenville, Pickens and Oconee counties could fill many volumes.

He was instrumental in stocking deer and wild turkeys in the mountain region, as well as

preserving black bear habitat, and he helped to protect wilderness areas in the Upstate for future generations to enjoy.

In 1980, the state named the Franklin L. Gravely Wildlife Management Area in his honor. This public hunting area is within the Jocassee Gorges tract.

A *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine article called Gravely "a mountain man's mountain man, a living legend throughout the rugged wilderness of northwestern South Carolina."

Memorials may be made to the Jocassee Gorges Trust Fund, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167.



*Conservation officer Franklin Gravely spent most of his life patrolling the area now known as Jocassee Gorges, and his efforts to preserve and protect the area are still bearing fruit today. The Franklin L. Gravely Wildlife Management Area in the Jocassee Gorges is named in his honor.*

## Bird research



*Clemson University master's student Anna Huckabee listens for bird calls during her bird research work along the Foothills Trail in the Jocassee Gorges. Helping her in this effort was her father, retired Lexington veterinarian Dr. Eddy Huckabee. In her research, Huckabee is field testing predictions made by Paul Hamel of The Nature Conservancy in his manual for biologists, "The Land Manager's Guide to the Birds of the South." The manual predicts that 1) habitat characteristics will determine what birds will be found within a particular landscape; and 2) if the ranges of the birds species in question fall within their optimal habitat and all conditions for occupancy are met, then these bird species should be present within that landscape.*

## Jocassee brochure available

The Jocassee Gorges brochure, published by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources with funding from Clemson University Biodiversity Initiative, is available.

The brochure features a full-color map showing the Jocassee Gorges tract and surrounding conservation lands. Included in the brochure is a driving tour of Jocassee Gorges and information on nearby state parks, camping opportunities, fishing, hunting, bird watching and other recreational opportunities.

Copies of the brochure may be obtained at DNR and State Parks offices in Columbia, and at Clemson University, Keowee-Toxaway, Devils Fork, Oconee, Jones Gap, Caesars Head and Table Rock (SC 11 Visitors' Center) state parks, Walhalla State Fish Hatchery, Duke Power's World of Energy, U.S. Forest Service Andrew Pickens Ranger District, DNR Clemson office and Clemson Extension offices in Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg counties.

## DNR, PRT discuss using Keowee-Toxaway as Jocassee gateway

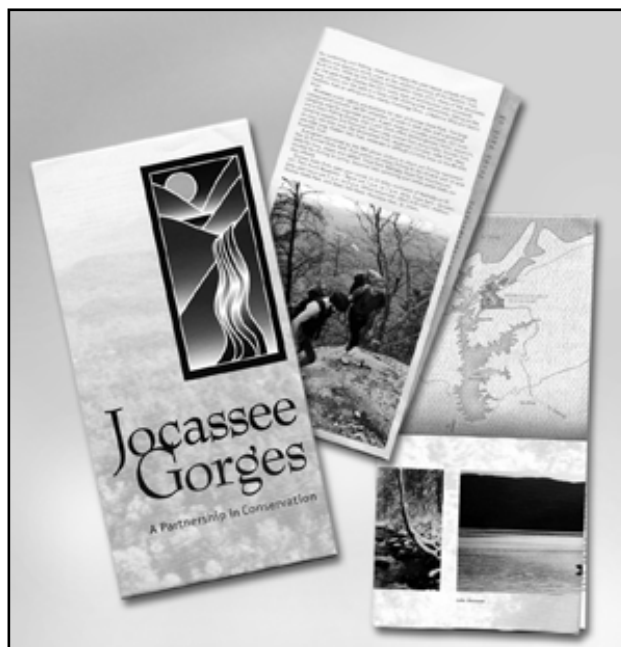
Staff from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism have been meeting to discuss ways to use Keowee-Toxaway State Park as a gateway to the Jocassee Gorges.

Keowee-Toxaway State Park is on SC 11 in Oconee County, and is adjacent to the Jocassee Gorges natural area.

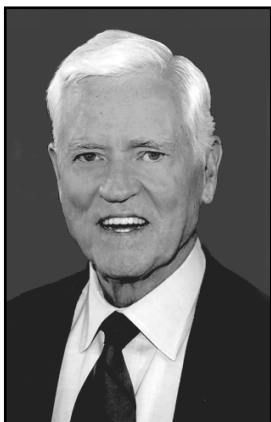
A joint DNR/PRT committee met several times during the summer to discuss a cooperative project at Keowee-Toxaway, which would include education and public outreach in association with Jocassee Gorges. Preliminary plans call for a visitor's center on the northwest side of SC 11 that would be able to accommodate both school groups and general visitors and would include interpretive space and classrooms.

Clemson University will also be a partner in the educational aspect of the Keowee-Toxaway project.

Funding support for the project will be sought in the 2001 session of the South Carolina General Assembly.



## Hollings helps Forest Service acquire 4,000-acre Jocassee tract



*Sen. Fritz Hollings*

United States Sen. Fritz Hollings recently helped the U.S. Forest Service acquire a 3,998-acre tract in Oconee County that is adjacent to both the Jocassee Gorges tract and existing lands in the Andrew

Pickens District of Sumter National Forest. Part of the tract is along the North Carolina state line.

Purchased from Duke Energy's Crescent Resources for \$6.6 million, the lands will help protect wildlife habitat, protect the watershed and enhance public access to recreation on the forest.

"Senator Fritz Hollings was instrumental in obtaining the appropriations to acquire these Forest Service lands adjacent to Jocassee Gorges," said John Frampton, DNR assistant director for development and national affairs. "From the very beginning, the Jocassee Gorges project was represented as a partnership, which included the acquisition of lands by the U.S. Forest Service, by the state and by The Conservation Fund. Senator Hollings helped make this recent land acquisition a reality by securing the necessary appropriations over a two-year period."

According to the U.S. Forest Service, a special appropriation helped fund the purchase, under the Weeks Law of March 1911, designed to protect watersheds.



## Jocassee Gorges DNR law enforcement activity reported

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officers in Oconee and Pickens patrolled 749 hours in the Jocassee Gorges between May-August 2000, wrote 59 summons, 54 warnings, made eight arrests for simple possession of marijuana, investigated four boating accidents on Lake Jocassee, and responded to two calls of injuries on the Foothills Trail.

One of the injury calls reported that a female subject had fallen from Laurel Fork Falls, which turned out to be she was struck in the face with a tree branch from a hiking companion. Another injury call reported that a male subject fell from Laurel Fork Falls and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

Officers also searched for Boy Scouts from Charlotte who were lost and were later located about 10 miles from where they were supposed to be. Also, a female juvenile had an asthmatic attack while hiking on the Foothills Trail. South Carolina DNR officers responded by boat to retrieve the subject and returned her to Devil's Fork State Park.

Officers are diligently patrolling this area to deter any action that would be detrimental to the natural resources of the Jocassee Gorges.

*(Compiled by DNR First Sergeants Larry Snipes and Larry Holbrooks)*

## National Guard improving roads in Jocassee Gorges

The 122nd Engineer Battalion of the S.C. Army National Guard worked in the Jocassee Gorges this summer to improve roads and construct three emergency helicopter pads.

The helicopter pads will provide access in the event of accidents and will provide landing and fueling areas near water sources in the event of wildfires. Work by the National Guard and the DNR is scheduled to continue through the summer of 2001.

Persons operating vehicles on the Jocassee Gorges roads should realize that many of the roads are in need of improvement, and cooperative road improvements by the National Guard and DNR will take several years. Extreme caution is warranted by vehicle operators due to the poor condition of some of the roadways and the ongoing construction activities.

## Jocassee project receives national conservation award

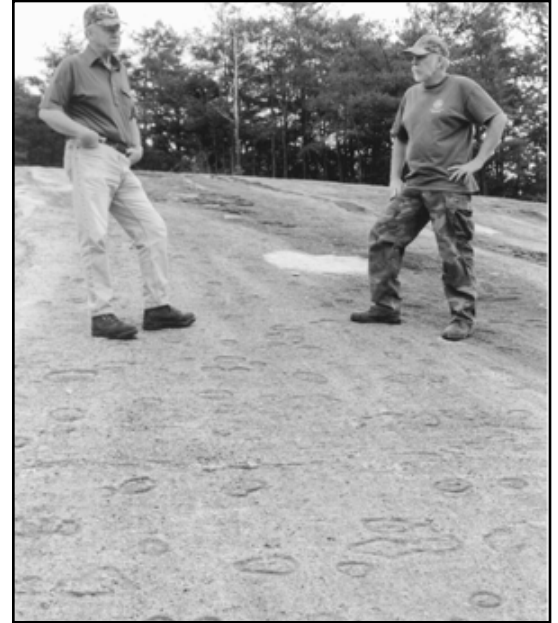
The S.C. Department of Natural Resources and its role in the Jocassee Gorges conservation project were honored recently by The Conservation Fund in partnership with Kodak and the National Geographic Society.

The award, "America's Parks for the 21st Century," was presented Sept. 12 in Arlington, Va., to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for its leadership in the Jocassee Gorges project and efforts to create a nationwide network of trails and greenways. On hand to accept the award were Dr. Paul Sandifer, DNR director, and John Frampton, DNR assistant director for development and national affairs. The award is part of The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program.

"The S.C. Department of Natural Resources has a long tradition of success in protecting the state's unmatched rivers, wetlands and forests from the Lowcountry to the highlands," said Ed McMahon, director of The Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program, in presenting the national award. "In doing so, it has created innovative greenways that link the state's natural treasures. Most recently, in a partnership that included South Carolina's governor, key legislators, state and federal agencies, nonprofits, foundations and a major regional corporation, the DNR spearheaded efforts to protect more than 44,000 acres of environmentally and ecologically significant land in the Jocassee Gorges area of northwestern South Carolina, creating one of the largest protected areas in the Southeast."

In accepting the award, Sandifer recognized individuals and groups who played key roles in the Jocassee Gorges project: The

Nature Conservancy, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Gov. Jim Hodges, the General Assembly, the state's Congressional delegation, former DNR director Dr. Jim Timmerman, and John Frampton.



*Pinnacle Mountain, in the Jocassee Gorges natural area, appears to hold a treasure-trove of mysterious markings called petroglyphs. Dr. Joab Lesesne, S.C. Natural Resources Board chairman, and Dennis Chastain, take a look at some of the stone etchings on Pinnacle. For a detailed story on the petroglyphs, see the "Signs in Stone" in the November-December 1999 edition of South Carolina Wildlife magazine.*

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Greg Lucas, SCDNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167.

Or, send both sides by FAX to Greg Lucas at (803) 734-3951.



# Cane Creek Watershed

## plant study nears conclusion



*Hepatica americana*

(**Editor's note:** Clemson graduate student LayLa Waldrop is currently writing the thesis for her two-year Cane Creek plant survey. The following is an abstract of her research project.)

The Cane Creek Watershed is one of the four existing watersheds included within the Jocassee Gorges natural area.

The Cane Creek Watershed consists of about 7.6 miles of stream associated with the Keowee River system of the Savannah River Drainage system. A two-year survey of the vascular flora of the watershed was initiated in 1998. This investigation resulted in the collection of about 500 plant species presently including 98 plant families. Investigation was primarily based on plant availability and distribution. Consideration was made to note endemics and disjuncts comprised within the watershed boundaries.

At present the list includes 16 species of state, regional or national concern. These species include *Asplenium monanthes*, *Carex austrocaroliniana*, *Carex bromoides* var. *montana*, *Carex radfordii*, *Circaea lutetiana* ssp. *canadensis*, *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Galearis spectabilis*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Juglans cinera*, *Juncus gymnocarpus*, *Lygodium palmatum*, *Panax quinquefolia*, *Saxifraga micranthidifolia*, *Shortia galacifolia*, *Trillium discolor*, and *Xerophyllum asphodeloides*.

Plant communities are also detailed within the study in relation to distribution and composition.



Clemson University master's student LayLa Waldrop prepares to press a fern during her two-year survey of the Cane Creek Watershed's plant life in the Jocassee Gorges natural area. Research projects like Waldrop's help scientists gain a broader understanding of the biological diversity of Jocassee Gorges, providing guidance for future management strategies.

We're glad you picked up this issue of the *Jocassee Journal*, and hope you found it informative. Please take a moment to let us know a little about yourself, and send us your comments, requests, ideas regarding the *Jocassee Journal* or the Jocassee Gorges area.

(optional) I am active in the following:

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*Red salamander*



*Three-lined salamander*

While “charismatic megafauna” such as black bears and white-tailed deer draw most of the attention, the Jocassee Gorges is teeming with seldom-seen wildlife such as red salamander (left) and three-lined salamander (right). The state of North Carolina is currently conducting numerous research projects to catalog the Jocassee Gorges biological diversity on the nearly 10,000 acres that it acquired in 1999. (Photos by Seth Lambiase, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation)

## Jocassee ecosystem diversity to be researched

By Scott Abella

Although forests in Jocassee Gorges appear pristine, most of the property has been clear cut or selectively logged several times since the late 1800s. Many commercial forest industries owned Jocassee Gorges before its purchase by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, and the property has supplied timber to build factories, houses and even sewing machine cabinets. A primary objective of DNR is to enhance and restore forests native to Jocassee Gorges. But what forest types would occupy Jocassee Gorges today had the property not been logged?

The purpose of my forest resources master of science project at Clemson University is to classify the different forest ecosystems that occur in Jocassee Gorges. Research plots will be established in some of the older forests of Jocassee Gorges that have not been cut recently, and the project will inventory trees, understory plants, soils and topography in each plot. Using computer programs, research plots will be grouped into ecosystem types that occupy similar soils and elevations and contain similar vegetation. The different forest types of Jocassee Gorges can then be mapped to help predict which ecosystems would occupy logged sites had the sites not been altered by logging.

Upon project completion, these ecosystem models may help DNR plan forest management and restoration in Jocassee Gorges. Southern Appalachian forests such as those in northwestern South Carolina are a center of biodiversity in North America, and in Jocassee Gorges there are incredible opportunities to enhance and restore native ecosystems. (Scott Abella is a master's student in Clemson University's Department of Forest Resources.)

## Natural resource inventories underway in North Carolina Jocassee Gorges

On April 29, 1999, the state of North Carolina purchased 9,749 acres of the Jocassee Gorges in Transylvania County from Duke Energy Corp. A new, 7,091-acre Gorges State Park was created, as was a new, 2,658 acre state Game Land to be managed by the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

In the 1960s and 1970s, a suite of biological studies of the Jocassee Gorges were supported by National Science Foundation grants awarded to the Highlands Biological Station in Highlands, N.C. New natural resource surveys, intended to update and complement past studies, have been funded by the N.C. Natural Heritage Trust Fund and coordinated by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program and the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

In 1999 and 2000, research has been or is being conducted on area geology, natural community mapping, rare plants,

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**In the 1960s and 1970s, a suite of biological studies of the Jocassee Gorges were supported by National Science Foundation grants awarded to the Highlands Biological Station in Highlands, N.C.**

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rattlesnakes, fish communities, amphibians, small mammals, terrestrial mollusks and breeding birds. Some of these projects will continue into 2001.

These studies will provide data needed so that Gorges State Park and new Game Land may be effectively managed for the conservation of their nationally significant natural resources.

For more information, contact:

**Seth Lambiase**

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, in Raleigh, N.C.,  
at (919) 715-8693 or  
Seth.Lambiase@ncmail.net.



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*Jocassee Journal*



## State parks serve as ‘gateways’ to Jocassee Gorges

Just like zoos have entrance gates and museums have exit doors, the Jocassee Gorges natural area has its own gateways. There are five South Carolina State Parks that serve as “gateways” into the Jocassee Gorges.

A visit to Oconee Station State Historic Site takes you back to a time when all of the upstate was as wild as the Jocassee Gorges. Oconee Station was the western frontier of the Americas in the late 1700’s. If you time your trip right you can wander through this old trading post while soldiers cook over open fires and trappers trade with the Indians.

The wood floors and stone fireplaces of the cabins at Oconee and Table Rock State Parks help you change gears from

the 21st century to simpler times while still providing some creature comforts.

If you don’t need the creature comforts or can’t whittle out an entire weekend from your busy 21st century life, pick up a “Parkview” publication and join a guided hike through the area. State Park Naturalists lead hikes that last a few hours to excursions that take you through fall foliage and deep into the Jocassee Gorges.

If you want to create your own adventure, Devil’s Fork and Keowee-Toxaway state parks offer direct access to the Jocassee Gorges by boat and by foot. It is only fitting that with the Jocassee Gorges now a property of the people that the South Carolina State Park Service provides the doorways. Which door are you going to choose?

**For a complete list of state parks and a copy of the calendar of events, call South Carolina State Park Service, toll-free, at 1-888-88-PARKS, or check out state parks on the Web at <http://www.southcarolinaparks.com>**